

MONDAY
November 24, 1958
6:14 p.m.

JLB



TELEPHONE CALL TO THE PRESIDENT IN AUGUSTA

The Sec read the proposed letter to Adenauer. The Pres thinks it is very guarded - at the same time letting him know the mere fact the Russians pull out - if their retreat ^{their} from ~~there~~/obligations puts us in a hole - what they do by omission makes us to by commission.... He went on and suggested saying but of course if the Russians abandon their responsibilities then I suppose in this kind of low level business we would have to go along if we were going to keep things straightened out - the Pres then said he does not know if the Sec should say it - as long as he understands if that is done peaceably we have not really a cause.... They agreed it is implied in the letter as is. The Pres suggested Bruce might say something like this to show there is both a juridical and ethical position as well as a practical one.

~~pd~~ The Sec said everyone is stirred up - the JCS want to do something fast and quick and Norstad wants us to fight our way through - the Pres thinks it is true but if the others go out and the East Germans try to stop convoys we say we can't have that - if they want to do normal checking and searching for contrabands etc....

pd